

THE UNIVERSE IS THEIR OYSTER... HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL COMPETITION WINNERS OFF TO CHICAGO

‘Space Confidential’ Winning Student Pair Announced at INTECH Planetarium

West Sussex, UK --- 19 May, 2008 --- Two students from Cams Hill School, Fareham, have been announced as winners of the ‘Space Confidential’ competition and are now set to travel to Chicago at the end of June with their parents for an all expenses paid trip, courtesy of Global Immersion.

Eve Reed (15) and Louise Payne (14) from Cams Hill School were selected by the judging panel to become winners of the grand prize following the competition final, held at the INTECH Planetarium in Winchester on Wednesday 14th May, 2008.

Six pairs of finalists from Cams Hill School, Fareham, went head-to-head with their ‘Space Confidential’ presentations, all using the Planetarium software, Uniview, to investigate the likelihood of alternate life forms existing within our Milky-Way Galaxy. After two hours of students Planetarium shows, and a further two hours of decision making, the judges finally agreed on the winners.



Prize-winners Eve Reed and Louise Payne following the announcement

Martin Howe, Chief Executive of Global Immersion and Judging Panel Chair commented; “It was really difficult in the end to agree on a winning pair as every single one of the students put an immeasurable amount of time and effort into their contribution. The work was out of this world – literally!”

“We’re still absolutely speechless. The scale of the prize hasn’t sunk in yet – I think we’re both still in shock.” says Eve Reed, speaking about their prize.

Louise Payne continued; “I’m so proud of what we’ve accomplished as I didn’t think we would have been capable of producing our own Planetarium show. Everyone should have a chance at doing something like this, it’s been a real learning curve for us both and we can’t wait for our trip to Chicago now!”

Howe added, “We couldn’t let anyone go home empty-handed as everyone involved had worked so hard. Each of the finalists was awarded a Gift Certificate and we have also supplied Cams Hill School with two high specification laptops and permanent licenses of the Uniview software – so the whole school can now fly around the Universe at lunchtime!”

BACKGROUND TO THE SPACE CONFIDENTIAL PROJECT:

Twenty year-ten pupils from Cams Hill School in Fareham, Hampshire, battled for the past two months for the chance to win the five-day trip to Chicago on Saturday 28th June, 2008.



Finalists and staff from Cams Hill School at the Space Confidential Final

Launched on March 3rd, 2008, the 'Space Confidential' competition is managed and funded by Global Immersion and has seen the fourteen and fifteen year-old students working with Cams Hill Science Consortium and Professors from Arizona and Boston Universities to research extra-solar planet discovery and the potential existence of alien life.

Global Immersion supplied Cams Hill School with their real-time space flight software, Uniview, as a tool to create Planetarium shows for the project. As the UK's first and only school installation, Uniview interprets live data from NASA, ESA and the American Museum of Natural History to explore the known Universe in Planetaria and on PC screens.

The winning pair will act as ambassadors for Global Immersion, giving their presentation to over 600 astronomers, astrophysicists and lecturers at a world renowned industry conference, the International Planetarium Society (www.ips2008.org), during their stay in Chicago. The presentation will be used to encourage science education within Planetarium environments, demonstrating how young people can become involved to promote this new and exciting medium.

About Global Immersion

With over ten years experience in the world of full-dome displays and scientific data visualisation, Global Immersion combines a broad range of proven technologies to create enthralling and exciting immersive theatre. As a full-service team, they pull together exceptional theatre design, advanced projection technologies, content production, user-friendly controls and advanced audio & lighting – all on a digital infrastructure.

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